

the business affairs of the Association by its House of Delegates. The whole animal kingdom offers but one example of intelligence so benighted as that which seems to be governing the majority of the medical (?) press of this country; one can but think of the cute little ostrich, with his dainty little head nicely buried in the sand. The handwriting is on the wall for him to read who will; so long as there remains even one medical journal in this country which will freely and fearlessly tell the truth and flay the hide off the dishonest manufacturer of dishonest nostrums, so long will there be betterment and so much the sooner will come the day when medical men will refuse to be buncoed and refuse to contribute to the support of medical (?) journals which exist for revenue first and for medical progress and decency afterward—if they have time and space. A few there are who seem to appreciate this fact and to see the trend of medical movement of the day, and they are beginning to side with the Association and its *Journal*, and with some of the State Journals, in the publishing of the truth and the dropping out of fraudulent, worthless or dangerous nostrum advertisements. In passing, one must commend the *Medical World*, of Philadelphia, for the manner in which it has taken the right side in our present "gentle and joyous contest." As the frauds are exposed by the *Journal A. M. A.*, the expose is reprinted in the *Medical World* and the advertisements are dropped; if some of the official publications of state medical organizations would do half as much, it would be a mighty good thing. And by-the-by, it is an unpleasant truth, but none the less a truth, that, until very recently, one of the State Journals enjoyed the peculiar distinction of being the only journal published which contained the advertisement of every one of the frauds which had been specifically unmasked by the *Journal A. M. A.*

At the present time there are a few things advertised in your JOURNAL which have not been approved by the Council. They were accepted before there was any Council to give us aid and assistance in discriminating against advertisers who should not receive recognition. We have desired to give all of these ample opportunity to submit their preparations to the Council and to conform to its rules—rules which are carefully framed and, if anything, are not sufficiently rigid to exclude all the things which should be excluded; but this will correct itself in the course of time. Most of the things that you will find in our advertising pages and which have not been approved by the Council, make greatly exaggerated statements about themselves; some contain on the label of the original package a list of diseases for which the remedy is to be used, and hence are objectionable for the reason that they tend to stimulate self-medication, a dangerous practice. So far as we are aware, there is no definitely known fake or fraudulent nostrum now being advertised by your JOURNAL; as

such have been found out, they have been thrown out of the advertising pages. Please, just remember a few things: Your JOURNAL was the first in this country that made a really honest and consistent effort to exclude advertisements of fraudulent nostrums; occasionally the Publication Committee was fooled, but the fraud was thrown out as soon as discovered. (As witness urisepin, vin Mariani—which claimed to contain no cocaine—Tyree's powder, etc.) Since the Council was formed and got to work, we have accepted the advertisement of no preparation which has not been approved by that body, though we have been offered many pages of such advertising. We do not desire to be hasty or unjust, and consequently we have endeavored to give all of our advertisers every opportunity and all the time possible, to comply with the just demands of the Council. We think two years is plenty of time—especially in this rapid century—and by the first of next year they will all have had that much time, and then, if they have not been approved by the Council, we will part company. That the rules of the Council are just and moderate, we believe any intelligent physician will admit after giving the matter a little careful thought. If you doubt it, just look at the label on a bottle of glyco-thymoline, for instance, and then honestly say whether a thing of that kind should be permitted. The label is evidently intended to appeal directly to the public and to teach them to believe that a simple alkaline wash will perform wonderful cures in all sorts of impossible conditions. Is that right?

One very pleasant and exceedingly profitable evening was spent, at Atlantic City, at a meeting, about the dinner table, of
STATE SOCIETY SECRETARIES. some eighteen or twenty secretaries of state medical societies. The idea was certainly

an excellent one, and steps have been taken to make such a gathering a permanent feature of the meetings of the American Medical Association. Each state should send its secretary to these meetings, and, if possible, he should go as a delegate and thus officially represent his state in the national organization. At any rate, he should be there and attend a meeting of state society secretaries. Probably no person present at the meeting at Atlantic City left the room without having acquired some very good ideas and suggestions from his fellows, and there is little doubt that all the states represented at that meeting will benefit from the suggestions of others and the statements as to successful work, possibly done better in some other state than at home. The spirit of the present organization of the medical profession is unique. It is not the labor union spirit of merely personal and material benefit; it is a spirit of personal uplifting, of personal education, of personal improvement in all those things which go to make a man a better physician and a better guardian of the sick in his charge. In so far even as our activities have been along the line of medical economics and have dealt